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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of fees as follows:— 1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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EDITORIAL.

There can be no two opinions on the 1918 Annual Conference. It was easily the most enthusiastic also the largest attended of any yet held; in fact, Mr. F. S. Pope, Secretary to the Department of Agriculture, said it was one of the largest he had attended of any industry. There can be no question that the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. D. S. Macdonald, who opened the Conference, was very surprised indeed to see the hall crowded with ladies and gentlemen, all of whom were full of enthusiasm, and gave every indication that they were there for business, and he was so impressed that he stated he would be only too willing to receive deputations with recommendations for the furtherance of the industry. Certainly the reception he gave to the deputation that waited on him was most sympathetic, and his answers to the requests made were most hopeful of good results eventuating. He again admitted his surprise at the number of people interested in the industry, and we are sure it was an eye-opener to him.

If he carries out his promise of cabling to Mr. Massey in England the amount of honey in store and the necessity of shipping this produce, we should see a very great improvement shortly. His remarks on the necessity on retaining the services of properly qualified men for grading N.Z. produce leads one to believe that our graders will be paid a salary proportionate to the experience necessary to maintain the market value of all produce bearing the Government graders' stamp.

On the matter of appointing a Chief Apiarist, he was again most candid, insomuch that his words were "if a suitable man could be found to fill the position he would be appointed," and we have no hesitation in saying that, provided he offers a salary commensurate with the qualifications necessary to fill the position, he will have no difficulty in finding a suitable man.

In this connection, Mr. T. W. Kirk pointed out that the Public Service Commissioners were very loath to create any

new appointment, as it might be doing an injustice to many officers in the Public Service who are now fighting for us. With this we quite agree, but it does not apply in regard to the appointment of a Chief Apiarist, as there is no officer connected with the Apiaries Division either at the front or in camp at present. We know that Mr. F. A. Jacobsen has been passed as medically fit for active service, and will probably be going into camp shortly, and he is the only one that could reasonably be considered if the appointment should be made. We hardly think Mr. Jacobsen would ask that this appointment, which he and all those who have the industry at heart reckon to be an essential one, should remain in abeyance until he returns from active service, which for all we can see at present will be a matter of years; and there is a possibility connected with active service of not returning at all. We sincerely hope this will not be the case with Mr. Jacobsen, who has done a very great deal of good work in eradicating box-hives and foul-brood from his district; but the possibility is there, and we must recognise it when considering what we believe to be an appointment that the beekeeping industry as at present fully warrants.

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There are many beekeepers now fighting for us who could without doubt have filled the office of apiary inspectors infinitely better than the two one-year cadets that have been appointed, so we think that if those fighting for us were not considered in the one case, it is hardly a sufficient reason to sidetrack an appointment that if filled by a really capable man would be of great assistance to the industry simply because one man who may or may not apply is going to do what a hundred perhaps as capable men are doing and have been doing for years.

* * * *

The experiment of trying to do the business of the Conference in two days must be recorded a failure, as not only were two papers cut out, and another one only half read, but a great deal of work that the Secretary intended to bring forward was crowded out for want of time. We think there was less time wasted this year than before, but in spite of this the time was too short. The H.P.A. will have to fix their day for the Tuesday, so as to allow the National the usual full three days.

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There was one distinct failure in the function, and that was the luncheon. All arrangements were made and assurances given by the proprietor of the establishment that everything would be all right—they were quite capable of handling the number, had done it dozens of times, &c., &c., but when it came to doing, it was, as one beekeeper aptly put it, like a man having a big honey flow on, and only half the appliances for handling it. After waiting about twenty minutes some got soup, some didn't; some got something else, some got nothing, and went down town to get a meal. The Editor, after vainly trying for three-quarters of an hour to get the guests served, got his fill of that commodity generally known as "the pip," and rushed off to his hotel, where he was just in time to get a snack before luncheon was "off." However, all the guests took the matter in good part, and we hope to fare better in future.

* * * *

Mr. F. S. Pope, Secretary to the Department of Agriculture, in his remarks at the opening of the Conference, stated that as there were to be changes in the Department, it was probably the last time he would address the beekeepers as occupying that position. We were very sorry to hear this, as Mr. Pope has been a great friend to the beekeeping industry, and has always been ready to give us the greatest possible assistance, both as regards advice and obtaining monetary help from the Department. In any case, we shall always be glad to see him at our Conferences, and benefit by his experience in all matters pertaining to ours and kindred industries.

* * * *

As there were a great number of new faces at the Conference, those who had attended for the first time, we should appreciate an expression of opinion from some of them, with any suggestion that may have occurred to them to the end of making the gathering more useful. So please send along your impressions, and we do not object to criticisms as well.

* * * *

Crop Reports.—The following returns came in after the 20th of last month:—

No.	Spring Count.	Increase to.	Crop. Tons.	cwt.
25	17	22	0	17
26	200	250	10	0
27	70	—	3	0
28	2	4	0	6
29	15	—	0	9
30	48	55	1	1
31	5	7	0	2
32	42	70	2	13
33	21	24	0	18
34	24	39	1	0

We cannot say that our appeal met with very hearty support, but it is a beginning, and we hope we shall fare better next year. We know many were afraid the names and districts would be published, and naturally did not want any "poachers." The Editor himself could not give any particulars of the above, as immediately the figures are recorded the letters are destroyed. What we were really after was to get the average yield per hive for the whole of the Dominion, and thus show the season good or bad as a whole.

The Honey Market.—The latest returns of shipments arriving Home are the realisation of £180 per ton, and we hope it was a large parcel.

* * * *

When we wrote last month on the necessity of the shareholders signing a contract with the H.P.A., we had no idea that any move was being made in that direction; therefore we were agreeably surprised to receive a copy of a contract form with the notice of the adjourned annual meeting of the H.P.A., and congratulate the directors on the step taken. It is bad business for the directors to take on a contract that provides penalties for non-fulfilment without being supported by legal contracts by those on whose behalf they sign, and, judging from the opinions expressed at the H.P.A. meeting, if this had been insisted on in the first operations of the Association, the whole industry would have been in a better condition than it is to-day, and no shareholder would have the feeling that his loyalty was being exploited by less honourable shareholders.

* * * *

We learn that a very prominent beekeeper, who has been a shareholder and supplier to the H.P.A. from the beginning, is playing false this year, and as this particular beekeeper has made no secret that he is independent of what the bees bring in as regards income, it is difficult to know the cause of his action. If the H.P.A. was not returning market values one could understand it better, but on last year's crop they have returned a better price than any outside offer, and they have in hand about £200 more for distribution at an early date, and there is yet one more shipment besides before the final returns for 1917 honey are in, so the loyal men are going to fare very well indeed. There is only one construction to be put on the action of men such as the above, and that is they are absolutely selfish, and for the sake of an apparent (and only apparent) penny or twopence per pound are willing to go back on their word, behave in a sneaky way, and take advantage of the word of honourable men who have pledged themselves to support their Association. Even the German excuse for breaking the terms of the treaty—"a regrettable necessity"—cannot apply here, because the advance of 5½d. per lb. "ex store" is a very payable price, even if there were not anything further to come. The highest figure quoted on the prospectus of the H.P.A. when the contract was originally signed was 4¾d. per lb. final payment, and the majority of commercial beekeepers fairly "jumped at it."

* * * *

During the whole of last season we were continually getting letters stating the H.P.A. were offering only so much, and the writers were being offered so much more. One man, also a shareholder, wrote a very boastful letter that he had sold his crop from his honey house in 2 lb. tins, which returned him 6⅛d. per lb. nett, so what good was the H.P.A. to him! When the final returns are paid, we hope the same gentleman will write again telling us the advantages of being disloyal.

* * * *

We hold no brief for the H.P.A. The whole policy of the Journal is to point out to the best of our ability the best means of marketing which enables the producer to get the utmost value for his crop, and we should not be doing our duty to the beekeepers of the Dominion if we did not show what is being done by our Co-operative Association. The columns of the Journal are open to all, and if any shareholder cares to give his reasons for not supporting the Association, we shall be only too pleased to give them publicity.

* * * *

We must apologise to our Beginners for not giving them their column this month. The Editor, who arrived home on the 21st June, has had all he could do to get the Journal out by somewhere near the first of the month. We shall give you something of interest next month.

The Adjourned Annual Meeting

OF THE

New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Asscn., Ltd.

The above meeting was held in the Esperanto Hall, Wellington, on Wednesday, 12th June, 1918, when about fifty shareholders were present, also Mr. L. A. Clark, of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd. Mr. H. W. Gilling occupied the chair.

After the minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed, the Chairman went into the position of the Association relative to the local and export markets, and the question of moving the headquarters to a more central position.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Brickell, the report and balance sheet were adopted.

The Chairman then explained the position of the local market, which, by the prices being realised by the export trade, was a matter the directors felt should be submitted to the shareholders before acting further in the matter. The position is this:—In November last the merchants were desirous of placing their orders for

honey, and the H.P.A. were approached asking for the quotations for the season. At that time the highest price the export trade was realising was 6d. per lb., so after going thoroughly into all costs and charges, the price fixed for the local trade was one that realised 6⅛d. per lb. nett, orders to be taken "without engagement." For the benefit of those who do not understand this term, it is one that is used in commercial life where there is a possibility of the material, produce, or whatever commodity the order is taken for becoming unprocurable. The orders at this price went up to somewhere about 100 tons, and before any deliveries were made the export price began to jump higher and higher, and the local market could only be supplied at a loss; therefore after filling orders to consume about 25 tons, the directors felt they should put the whole matter before the shareholders and let them decide.

Mr. Baines moved, and Mr. Ireland seconded—"That the orders already placed by the merchants for local markets be filled."—Carried.

Whilst recognising this will mean a considerable loss to the shareholders, it was very pleasing to note they accepted it in the only reasonable way. The directors acted in absolute good faith when fixing the price—that was, higher than the export trade at that time was returning, and to blame them because they could not see that the export trade was going up to inflated values is hardly a fair thing. Had the export trade dropped, we should have expected the merchants to have taken all the orders at the price given; therefore if the Association has any commercial honesty at all, it was in duty bound to fulfil its engagements. One shareholder stated that had the meeting decided otherwise he would have nothing further to do with them, as they would be dishonest in their dealings. Good man!

There is just one other aspect to be considered. When matters become normal where shall we get our steady increase in price and consumption of honey? This will be accomplished by the retail trade both here and in England, and the New Zealand beekeepers have already jeopardised the retail trade in England by forcing Major Norton to neglect the retailers there and take advantage of the inflated prices offered by aerated water manufacturers and confectioners, to whom our honey is being sold. Think of it, you who are so anxious to have New Zealand honey take its place on the English market! The Major could have returned you about 1/- per lb. by keeping faith with his clients and **keeping to the terms of the contract;** but you said to him, "You must return inflated values or we will not let you have the honey," and the splendid outlet offered by continuing to supply the retailers has been seriously jeopardised. Californian honey is now being sold where New Zealand honey was before, and if it continues it will be owing to the fact that it is every bit as good in quality as ours, and cheaper. We fully believe it will be only good feelings for the Dominion and what we have done in regard to the war that will restore our honey to the position it held. Solid facts, my masters!

Mr. Bray moved, and Mr. Mannex seconded—"That the directors be asked to approach the Minister with regard to the shipping difficulty, and we leave it to their subsequent discretion to deal with the balance in store."—Carried.

Mr. Gilling moved, and Mr. Ireland seconded—"That the directors be empowered to enter into an agreement with the B. and D. on the basis of their recent offer of £60 per ton nett without recourse based on pre-war freights and insurance."—Carried.

Mr. Bray moved, and Mr. Ward seconded—"That the supporting contracts be obtained from shareholders, and the directors be instructed to put into operation the provision of Article 20 of the Association."—Carried.

Mr. Ireland moved, and Mr. Allan seconded—"That the Company's need of further capital be put before the shareholders, and they be asked to agree to a deduction of a minimum of ¼d. per lb. due on payments on 1917 and 1918 honey as they fall due."

Mr. Ward moved as an amendment, seconded by Mr. Jacobsen—"That ½d. per lb. be substituted for ¼d."—Carried.

Mr. Gilling moved, and Mr. Weade seconded—"That Mr. E. A. Wills be appointed auditor at a fee of £10 10s."—Carried.

Mr. Allan moved, and Mr. Baines seconded—"That Mr. H. W. Gilling be appointed general manager at a salary of £400 a year."—Carried.

This, we think, is a very good move, as not only was Mr. Gilling poorly paid for the work he was doing, but he was very much handicapped by having far too much to do. Now, as general manager he will be relieved of a very great deal of responsibility, the directors framing the policy, and he giving all his time to organisation, obtaining new shareholders, &c., &c. The position will give Mr. Gilling an excellent opportunity of showing his ability, which was not possible under the old conditions.

Mr. Allan moved, and Mr. McKnight seconded—"That it be a recommendation to the incoming directorate to place the accounts of the Association in the hands of a qualified accountant."—Carried.

Mr. Allan moved, and Mr. Bartlett-Miller seconded—"That the directors be paid £1 a day whilst attending directors' meetings, in addition to travelling expenses."—Carried.

The nominations for directors were Messrs. E. W. Sage, W. B. Bray, and R. W. Brickell. The voting was:—

R. W. Brickell	160
E. W. Sage	157
W. B. Bray	78

Messrs. Baines and Clark acted as scrutineers.

At the directors' meeting held on Saturday, 15th June, Mr. J. Allan was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of Mr. Gilling, owing to the new position being created for him.

Mr. J. Rentoul, who was unavoidably absent, was offered the position of chairman by telegram, and he replied stating his willingness to fill the office to the best of his ability.

We now feel that our Association is on a thoroughly business-like basis, and have no doubt it will eventually obtain the support of every beekeeper in the land.

1918 Conference Impressions

By E. G. WARD.

The chief impression left in my mind after attending the fifth annual Conference of the National is that it is a real live body, and a power to be reckoned with in apiculture. As evidence of this, I may draw attention to the very flattering remarks of the Hon. W. D. S. Macdonald, and also his promise of assistance when opening the Conference. We have a friend in the right quarter.

The welcome to visitors by the Mayor of Wellington (J. P. Luke, Esq.) was most cordial, and his invitation to a "joy ride" round the town put everyone on good terms with him. Unless it was taken advantage of on Saturday, it would have to be abandoned, as the weather was very "soft" the whole time the Conference was sitting.

Mr. T. W. Kirk was the same genial gentleman whose acquaintance I made seven years ago, and, as usual, took the keenest interest in our deliberations, and was just as ready to help as ever. His invitation to "the pictures" of N.Z. industries was accepted with enthusiasm, and the entertainment thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. F. S. Pope's review of what had been done to put the industry on a sound footing during his term of office as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture confirmed the impression that he has been in sympathy with us all the time.

Our Waikato friends have done us a good turn in enlisting the services and interest of Mr. J. Young, the member for their district. If a voice is wanted in Parliament in our favour we have it assured. If I am not mistaken, he has got the "bee fever," and if so we may expect there will be "something doing" when our interests are at stake.

The President's address put us all in a good humour, and when our "volcanic" secretary's report and balance sheet had been read, we felt quite rich, and proud to know that our affairs had been so well managed during the previous year.

My impression of the "luncheon" is somewhat "misty." The view from Kelburn was decidedly so. The photograph turned out better than might have been expected under the circumstances, but I am sorry all the visitors were not in it, so that it would have been a record of a "record" attendance.

The demonstrations were highly interesting, and showed that those giving them had gone to much trouble in preparing exhibits. Mr. Trythall's models of the "Hand Floor-board" made quite a show, and his remarks were closely followed. As a result, I expect to hear that some will be trying the Hand system of swarm control, and find after all that the "best laid schemes o' bees and beekeepers gang aft agley."

Mr. Bartlett-Miller's talk about genetics was somewhat "above our heads," but if he does what he promised we will forgive him. I was alarmed at one stage of his remarks, his language got so scientific and technical, so much so that everyone began to cough, and I quaked for the consequences. The danger passed, however, and we shall now wait for the two years Mr. Miller has stipulated before he gives his discovery the publicity it deserves.

I always listen with pleasure to anything Mr. Stewart says about queen-rearing. He does not mind us "picking his brains," and he knows what he is talking about.

Mr. Ireland's remarks on frames and the discussion following proves that "many men have many minds," but to my mind the "man behind the gun" is the main consideration.

Mr. Benton's capping melter got a good "boost," and is, I believe, a "good thing." Everyone knows what a boon it would be to be able to clean up each day as we go, and this machine is one of many designed to help us along this line.

Mr. Allan's demonstration on "pat" honey was an education to a number. He has packed and sold honey in this form for about ten years, and is entitled to be called the chief authority on this style of putting up honey for market. I have been an advocate of this style of package even before I heard Mr. Allan on the subject, and have sold small quantities done up in this way. It is particularly suitable at the present time, when containers are

so expensive. Our H.P.A. should be able to do a good trade with it, but will have to insist on it being stored in a dry place, or I know from experience there will be trouble.

The Constitution amendments were adopted with very little debate. They give evidence of being carefully thought out, and we are indebted to the Waikato Branch for introducing the improvements.

There were a few prominent beemen who were "conspicuous by their absence," the chief among them being "father" Hopkins. If I were a betting man, however, I would lay something he was with us in spirit. He is waiting for a report, and when he knows what a successful meeting we have had he will rejoice to know that his early work in the interests of beekeeping is bearing fruit. I sometimes wonder if he has not got a "finger in the pie" under a pen name familiar to us all.

Among the bee appliances was a "patent" hive. I am going to offer a bit of advice to the inventor, and it is free. It is this: Save your patent money and put it into bees. There is not a manufacturer in the world who would give twopence for the sole right of manufacturing it, and there is not an experienced beekeeper who would adopt it if on the market. No offence meant, I assure you.

To sum up, I enjoyed myself immensely, and have come home well pleased with everything and everybody, and am looking forward to meeting the same faces next year, and making more friends among new ones.

Bees in Relation to Fruit-Growing.

By I. HOPKINS.

(Paper read at the National Patriotic Apple Show, Auckland, May 1, 1918.)

(Concluded.)

The late Professor Cook, previously referred to, in reply to questions I sent him, said:—

"Bees never harm blossoms, but are always a help. Bees are a tremendous aid through pollination. Many of our best fruits must be cross-pollinated to reproduce. Many pears, apples, and plums, &c., are utterly sterile to their own pollen. Bees are alone numerous enough to effect this valuable service. I am sure that it is an incontrovertible fact that bees as the great agents in pollination are far more valuable to the world than for the honey they produce. The best orchardists (in California) now arrange with apiarists to bring their bees to the orchards: they find they must have bees."

And again, Professor L. O. Howard, chief of the Division of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, United States of America, in his introduction to Bulletin No. 1 on "The Honey Bee," third edition, says of bees and bee culture:—

"This branch of agricultural industry does not impoverish the soil in the least, but, on the contrary, results in better seed and fruit crops. The total money gain to the country from the prosecution of this industry would undoubtedly be placed at several times the amount given in the table above (20,000,000 dollars) were we only able to estimate in dollars and cents the result of the work of bees in cross-fertilising the blossoms of fruit crops. In support of this, it is only necessary to refer to the fact that recent investigations of another Division of this Department have shown that certain varieties of pear are nearly or quite sterile unless bees bring pollen from other distinct varieties for their complete fertilisation. Further, a writer in the 'Fruit Grower' stated: 'It has now become demonstrated that many kinds of fruits, if not all kinds, are greatly benefited by bees, and that a large portion of our fruit, such as the apple, pear, and particularly the plum, would be barren were it not for the helpful work of the honey bee.' Professor Waite, of the Agricultural Department, Washington, covered the blossoms of pears, apples, and plums with netting, excluding the bees, and found that such protected blossoms of many varieties yielded no fruit. In some varieties there was no exception to the rule, and he was convinced that large orchards of Bartlett (Wms. Bon Chretien) pears, planted distant from other varieties, would be utterly barren were it not for the work of the bees, and even then they could not be profitably grown unless every third or fourth row was planted to Clapp's Favourite, or some other variety capable of fertilising the blossoms of the Bartlett. In other words, he found that the Bartlett pear could no more fertilise its own blossoms than can the Crescent strawberry."

Coming to my own experience nearer home, in the winter of 1882 I started a bee farm at Matamata, and had about 100 colonies of bees when the fruit-blooming season came on. The apiary was located close to a mixed orchard of large trees, covering some ten acres. The nearest bush was about five miles distant, and, the orchard being in an open plain, there was no shelter for wild bees nearer than the bush, so that it is not at all likely the orchard was visited by many bees. I was informed that, though the trees blossomed abundantly each season, they bore very little fruit: that the whole ten acres did not supply fruit enough for the station. The result in that and subsequent seasons, by the aid of my bees, was that the trees had

to be propped up in all directions to keep them from breaking down under the weight of fruit.

Where the Bees Should be Located.

All commercial orchardists must be certain that every facility is given to ensure the visits of hive bees to their trees when in blossom, otherwise they will not reap the full benefit of their work and outlay. Two conditions are necessary—1st, the bees should be close at hand; and, 2nd, the hives and trees should be well sheltered from high winds. "Close at hand" means the hives should be at one corner of the orchard with a northern and eastern aspect if possible, so that in stormy weather, which often occurs in the fruit blooming season, the bees may have an opportunity of working on the blossoms during every hour of sunshine. It is not enough to trust to your neighbour's bees some distance off, for if they have far to fly during short breaks in the weather, you will receive little or no benefit from them.

With regard to the number of hives of bees ("colonies" is the usual term) needed for, say, an orchard of ten acres, it will be obvious that I can only express an opinion on this question, which is that from ten to fifteen in fair normal conditions would be ample.

Spraying of Fruit Trees at Right Time.

It should be distinctly understood that the spraying of fruit blossoms with the usual poisonous mixtures while in the condition to attract bees means certain death to all insect visitors. I understand that the proper time and when the most good is done is to spray when the blossom petals are falling. In several of the American States there are laws against spraying before that time; the mixture not only destroys bees and their brood, but also the pollen of other flowers sprayed.

Conclusion.

To conclude, I cannot do better than quote the opinion of Herman Miller on the value of bees as fertilising agents in his great work on "The Fertilisation of Flowers":—

"Bees, which not only feed on the produce of flowers, but nourish their young also thereon, are in such intimate and life-long relations with flowers that they show more adaption to a floral diet, and are led to more adaptive modifications in these flowers than all the foregoing orders (of insects), put together. Bees, as the most skilful and diligent visitors, have played the chief part in the evolution of flowers; we owe to them the most numerous, the most varied, and most specialised forms. Flowers adapted to bees probably surpass all others together in variety of colour. The most specialised, and especially the gregarious, bees have produced great differentiations in colour, which enable them on their journeys to keep to a single species of flower. While those flowers which are fitted for a miscellaneous lot of short-lipped insects usually exhibit similar colours (especially white or yellow) over a range of several allied species, the most closely allied species growing in the same locality, when adapted for bees, are usually of different colours, and can thereby be recognised at a glance (e.g., Trifolium, Laninm, Tenerium, Ferdicularis)."

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[These Comments, be it understood, are not to be accepted in the light that "Critic" thinks he knows everything about bees, because he knows he does not, and never can. They are simply intended to help in some small way the development of our industry.]

June Number—**Editorials**—I have already criticised the scale of salary and the utter thoughtlessness of those responsible for it, and expecting to get and keep capable apiary instructors for such a miserable remuneration, so that all I need say is that I fully agree with all your remarks on the subject.

"**Failure of H.P.A.**"—This heading looks alarming at first glance, but is innocent enough when read with the context in the Editor's remarks in third paragraph, page 83. He holds that the Association has not accomplished what it set out to do—viz., to induce all or the majority of our commercial beekeepers to co-operate in the disposal of their honey; therefore, in this respect the H.P.A. has failed, or partially failed, in its mission, and he asks, "Whose fault is it?" The Editor, in answering his own query, places the default on the beekeepers themselves, which is undoubtedly true; but has the the H.P.A. up to the present, as what I be done to bring about that general co-operation so essential to its success? I think not. At the same time, I do not blame the Executive or management of the H.P.A. up to the present, as what I am going to suggest as the remedy may be considered beyond its means; but until something of the kind is undertaken, I cannot see how things will improve.

My suggestion, which I hope will be well discussed, and criticised if necessary, is that a competent traveller should be engaged to go through all our principal bee-

keeping districts on behalf of the National Association and the H.P.A., explaining the advantages of co-operation, securing members for the former, shareholders for the latter, and arranging for the purchase of the season's crop. It may be said that this latter is practically impossible, but I know from experience that it has been, and is now, a common practice among travellers of well-known firms. With regard to expenses, there's the rub. To secure a good man a good salary would have to be paid, and travelling would be somewhat costly. The results, however, as they seem to me should more than recompense both institutions for their share of the outlay. We must remember that beekeepers are not singular in their capriciousness: it seems to be a trait in human nature with which we must reckon, for we have seen the same in the formation of all other co-operative institutions. It has taken many years and much labour to bring them to the successful stage.

I am pleased to see you have taken up the question of honey exhibits at our principal shows, and condemned the apathy of the National Association in not taking an interest in the matter. As I have always maintained, and still maintain, our National Association is neglecting one of its most important functions in the progress of our industry in not taking advantage of the very best means of bringing our principal product—honey—directly before the general public at a minimum of cost.

Page 86—**Hive Cramp.**—The best cramp by a long way for putting parts of hives firmly and truly together is that made for and used at the Government Apiary, figured and described in the "Australasian Bee Manual." The long iron joiner's cramp is unwieldy, and takes up too much time to adjust and re-adjust.

April, May and June Numbers—**Notes from a Breeding Specialist.**—No beekeeper who has carefully read Mr. M. Atkinson's article in the above Journals can do other than appreciate the painstaking research and experiments he has carried out in his endeavour to discover the most serviceable bee for the English climate. He, unlike many of his brother British beekeepers, does not idolize the black bee, but from what I can gather his choice so far lies between Golden Italians and Caucasian bees, or probably in the future a cross between them may prove more suitable than either. Mr. Atkinson, it seems to me, is the type of gentleman likely to do more good for others than he is for himself. If I judge correctly, he is really after a composite bee—a bee made up of two, three, or more varieties, and like the baby with a certain soap, "he won't be happy till he gets it." If I am doing him justice by taking up this line of argument, I would remark first of all that his breeding apiaries would need to be isolated, where there would be little or no possibility of visits from other bees. Then, supposing after very many years of cross-breeding the ideal composite bee in his opinion came to light, how long would it take to get the type fixed, if that were possible? More than a lifetime. Had we the same control over the breeding of our bees as Luther Burbank has in his work of hybridisation or cross-fertilisation of blossoms in any direction he wills, we would have as little trouble to get the ideal bee as he has to get the fruit or plant he desires.

Line breeding, in my opinion, is the best course to take to improve one's bees, which is to start with the variety of bee most favoured, and breed each season from the colonies giving the best results in honey, temper, least inclination to swarm, &c.

I hope Mr. Atkinson will favour us with some further notes on advanced beekeeping.

Page 91—**Colour in Grading.**—Mr. Teed does not apparently discriminate between the two terms, "colour" and "brightness," which are absolutely distinct in their meaning. Colour of honey is one of the chief points in grading; it may be amber coloured, but the fact of it being bright or dull does not alter the colour; it may affect the points awarded, as a bright amber would count before a dull amber. You could not expect a dark nutty brown coloured honey to count in the same class for colour with amber coloured because of its bright appearance. Red is red, whether bright or dull.

Ibid—**Honey in Boxes.**—Although it might not be advisable to risk a large quantity of honey in boxes for oversea markets at the present time, I think now that tins are almost unprocurable, we ought to lose no time in giving boxes a trial with a small consignment. I believe that is all Mr. Allan has asked for in the meantime. The Department would no doubt give permission to ship a quarter or half-ton trial lot, then I dare say the National and its Branches, together with the H.P.A., would be prepared to take a share of the risk with Mr. Allan for the first small consignment, though I think the risk a negligible quantity so far as shipboard is concerned. I believe Mr. Nelson has rather laboured the point with regard to shipboard risk. Interviewing one of the chief shipping firms in Auckland on the matter of honey stowed as general cargo, whether in the event of any of it being stowed near the engine-room (I had explained about boxed honey), any harm could come to it. The reply was that although it was still customary to mark some merchandise "Keep away from the engines," that the caution is practically unnecessary with present day cargo steamers. Honey is usually stowed as broken cargo. I certainly cannot understand how the short atmospheric or temperature changes on a run Home round the "Horn" will have the slightest effect upon boxed honey.

The run through the tropics occupies from ten to eleven days, reckoning the ship to travel about 12 knots, only half of which is in the hottest part; and as for the "Gulf Stream," its highest temperature in summer where it pours out of the Gulf of Mexico is 84 deg. Fahr., but where a ship meets it on the Home run round the "Horn" the temperature is very much reduced. Besides, a ship only touches it at its most eastern side for a short time, and the moist atmosphere of the Gulf Stream is along its two edges where condensation takes place. I know the "Stream," with its lovely garden of "Gulfweed," fairly well, also the tropics, which I have been through many times, and, in fact, lived in different parts for four years, and my experience leads me to believe that Mr. Nelson's fears are not well grounded so far as risk in shipboard is concerned. At all events, the crux of the matter can only be satisfactorily solved by trial shipments.

District Reports.

WAIRARAPA.

Beekeepers have experienced a rather trying season this year, final results being about two-thirds of a full crop.

Beeswax is in good demand at 2/- per lb.

As the result of the high prices being obtained for honey, &c., most beekeepers are preparing for a big increase next season.

The winter so far has been very mild, and possibly foreshadows a hard time for beekeepers in this district next spring.

Y. H. BENTON.

June 17th, 1918.

The first annual meeting of the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association was convened in Murray's Hall, Masterton, on the 4th June, 1918, Mr. R. H. Nelson (President) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The President, in his opening address, laid stress on the value of co-operation, comparing the prices ruling fifteen years ago with the prices being obtained to-day as the result of the co-operative movement among beekeepers. He also touched on queen breeding, mentioning the necessity of breeding plenty of pure-bred drones to ensure success. Foul-brood and the best methods of treating the disease were also discussed.

The annual report and balance sheet was then read by the secretary. Satisfactory comments were expressed by several members on the progress the Branch had made and the position of its balance sheet, which shows a credit balance for the year of £12 18s. 1d. The membership list shows 28 members, representing about 1,750 colonies.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen moved, and Mr. J. M. Russell seconded—"That the report and balance sheet be adopted."—Carried unanimously.

Messrs. R. H. Nelson and C. R. Benton were appointed delegates to attend the National Conference.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Mr. R. H. Nelson; Vice-President, Mr. F. A. Jacobsen; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Y. H. Benton; auditor, Mr. J. H. Henderson; Committee—Messrs. J. Scott, F. Parkes, J. M. Russell, J. Kempton, R. Holditch.

Mr. Russell moved—"That the members present sit as a special meeting for the purpose of altering the date of the annual meeting from June to May to prevent clashing with the annual Conference of the National." Seconded by Mr. F. A. Jacobsen.—Carried.

Several remits were prepared to be put before the Conference dealing with the appointment of a Chief Apiarist, the salaries of apiary instructors, and other matters of more or less importance to the industry.

It was proposed by Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, and seconded by Mr. J. M. Russell—"That the next meeting be held in Eketahuna in conjunction with a field day."—Carried.

In conclusion, Mr. C. R. Benton moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, and carried amidst applause.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen moved a hearty vote of thanks to the secretary for the work he had done in the past year. This was seconded by Mr. R. Holditch, and carried by acclamation.

Y. H. BENTON,
Secretary.

Honey Crop Prospects.

The Director of the Horticultural Division has received from the apiary instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—There is little further to report this month. The keen demand for honey has slackened somewhat. Beeswax is in demand at 2/- per lb., with but little offering.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—Practically all this season's crop has been extracted or sold pending extraction from the combs. Prices realised average 1/- per lb. There is no pat honey coming forward. Comb honey is also scarce. Beeswax is in keen demand at 2/- per lb. Export lines continue to come freely into the grading store.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—There is practically no alteration. The bulk of the crop has been dealt with, but a few small lines are still to come forward. Prices are firm. Local market quotations show no decline. Bulk honey, 9½d. to 10d.; sections, 7/6 to 10/-; pat honey, none forward. Beeswax is in strong demand, and is quoted at 2/- per lb.—E. A. Earp.

BEE-STINGS.

By "UOMO SELVATICO."

A considerable amount of uncertainty prevails in regard to bee-stings and their treatment. Perhaps a few words from a retired surgeon who has devoted some of his time to a careful study of the subject and to whom the honey bee is "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever" may not be found uninteresting. Several things may contribute to the severity or otherwise of a sting—

1. The strength of the poison.
2. The amount of the dose.
3. The locality of the sting.
4. The health of the victim.
5. The health of the bee.

1. **The Strength of the Poison.**—It appears to me that on certain days the poison is stronger than it is on others, and its effects more deleterious. For instance, I avoid handling bees when the atmosphere is electrically charged, or on the approach of rain. Whether the bee has the power of elaborating at will, or, under certain conditions, a more deadly poison is a point worth investigation and experiment. Personally, I think it has. This question is associated with the further question of what the poison really is. Most authorities tell us it is Formic acid. Formic acid is certainly present, but this acid is also the agent of the stinging nettle. Now, the effects of a sting from a bee and those from a nettle are quite different, showing that the poison is not altogether formic acid. From analogy and more direct considerations it has been suggested that the poison is in part a specific ferment or **enzyme**, as it is called. These enzymes play a most important rôle in the great economy of Nature, and we owe to them the digestive powers of plants and animals, the varieties in colour of flowers, the virtues of honey itself, and so on. They are the products of life, and are elaborated in the living organism, be it plant or animal, hence they are known as bio-chemical compounds, from the Greek word—Bios, life. Now we begin to see why the sting of a bee and that of a nettle have different effects, for of course these organisms produce different enzymes, which, of course again, have different effects on the human body. Does this not also explain why bee-stings vary in their intensity, other things being equal? For it is apparent that the poison, being a bio-chemical one, it is more or less under the control of the bee itself, or is at least modified by the health or condition of the bee. What is to hinder a spiteful German from exercising its will and putting an extra venom into its poison? In my opinion nothing whatever. Germans will do anything. So far as I know, this enzyme has not yet been isolated with which to experiment, but some day it is sure to be caught and made to yield the secret of its power, and we may then be able to produce an efficient antidote. Till then, courage!

2. **The Amount of the Poison.**—When a bee leaves its weapon in the human skin its work is only half finished, the poison sac continuing to pump, in rhythmical contractions, its deadly doses into the system. The bee being dead yet stingeth! But what is the skin doing meanwhile? It is showing you one of the most beautiful adaptations of Nature which the human eye can see or the human mind perceive. We are usually informed that the poison enters directly into the blood-stream, and is whirled away so rapidly that no antidote can possibly overtake it. I have heard of Achilles and the Tortoise before, but am still inclined to back Achilles. Nature is not so cruel to her children. I grant that when the poison is injected directly into a large blood-vessel the difficulties are immensely increased, but this does not often happen, and it must be considered in the nature of a catastrophe. There is little hope for a steeplejack when he falls! But in ordinary circumstances what occurs is this: A minute quantity of poison reaches the small blood vessels or capillaries of the skin, and the effect is the dilatation of these capillaries. What does this mean? It means that the circulation is disturbed and that the stream with its poison is directed **into** the capillaries and not out of them into the larger blood-vessels. We are now speaking of very attenuated microscopic objects, but the principle is the same. This eddy in the circulation means to the marvellously balanced organism a message of distress. Instantaneously with the dilatation of the capillaries battalions of blood-corpuscles reach the spot, constitute a circle of almost impenetrable density, and thus form what is practically a closed-in sac or cell containing its modicum of blood and poison. This little white circle or wheal, with its tiny red spot as a centre, can

now be detected by the naked eye. The **first rush of the enemy has been stopped!** If the sting be now removed and a local medicament applied, this usually ends the trouble. But if the sting be permitted to continue pumping out its poison, and the corpuscles have not had time "to consolidate the ground gained," Nature, like the Dutch, will open her flood-gates, and the water of the blood will inundate the whole environment. This in poor human parlance is called a "swelling," **Nature's first splint.** A splint keeps the parts at rest, prevents inflammation, soothes pain, but in the case we are now considering it does a great deal more. It limits the poison to a certain locality; it dilutes the virus, and lets it enter the circulation thus diluted only drop by drop. One could hardly get merry on a bottle of whisky mixed with a barrel of water. It would "drown the miller." So does our swelling!

But suppose the poison be particularly noxious and enough gets through to continue the attack, the besieged citadel being the great central nervous system named the spinal cord, even yet it is "a lang cry to Loch Awe!" For Nature now diverts much blood, with its poison, away from the spinal cord by flushing the head and neck, swelling the throat and tongue, and causing a rash and blood effusion into the skin. She also "clears the scuppers" by causing a running at the nose and eyes, and by vomiting and purging, and so tending to eliminate the poison from the system. Some of the poison must of necessity reach the vital centres indicated by slowing of the heart and labouring of the respiration. But after such a prolonged struggle the destroyer, like its victim, has been denuded of much of its potency, and in the great majority of cases is incapable of administering its fatal coup. The last battle is the decisive one!

3. The Locality of the Sting.—Even though the sting be directly into a vein, Nature does much to prevent fatal consequences, as I have just indicated. Where swelling cannot readily take place, such as under the nail or on the palm or scalp, the pain is very severe, for swelling by numbing the sensory nerves cuts off communication with the pain-centre in the brain, and so renders all sensation impossible.

4. The Health of the Victim.—Fear renders anyone less capable of combating the poison. A dog, without previous knowledge of its presence, bitten suddenly by a snake, generally recovers, but if the dog stands shivering before its enemy and then gets bitten, it is almost sure to die. The same principle applies to bees and their stings. Some people are peculiarly susceptible to the poison, and develop dangerous symptoms from the first. We apiarists all know that we can render ourselves immune to ordinary bee-stings, but this is too large a subject to discuss in the present paper.

5. The Health of the Bee.—Even the busy bee has its diseases, and also collects germs and enzymes from the flowers and from other less reputable sources. Bees are not always particular enough about their own toilet, and mix foreign elements, living and dead, with their normal acid and enzyme. The result is sometimes the sudden death of a beekeeper who considered himself immune. So indeed he might be to normal bee-poison, but not to some deadly foreign element introduced along with it.

Treatment.

We have to combat three distinct elements:—Acidity, enzyme, germ.

The difficulty with all local applications is the impermeability of the skin. There is little use in applying a remedy if it cannot soak in to do its special work. It is like blistering a skep to reach the bees. The fair sex, having a more delicate cuticle, is more amenable to treatment, hence the well-earned popularity of the blue-bag, which is undoubtedly of use in many cases. Other popular remedies are pure spirit, tincture of iodine, carbolic lotion, solutions of ammonia, soda, or even lime. I have tried them all, and found that the effect depends more on the method of application than on the specific virtues of each remedy. Whatever substance is chosen should be in the form of a **weak** solution. Strong solutions merely harden the skin, and prevent all penetration whatever. A piece of lint well soaked in the weak solution should be applied, and covered with mackintosh or oiled silk to keep the moisture from evaporating.

However, few if any of these remedies combat all the elements involved—viz., acidity, enzyme, germ. The nearest approach to a specific which I have found is Ichthyol. This is a compound of ammonia, and is both an alkali and an antiseptic, penetrating the skin quickly and easy of application. It is best made into an ointment with an equal part of lanolin, and should be put on thickly and covered with cotton wadding. Of course the sting must be removed at the very first, according to the art of the apiarist, and general stimulants administered if considered necessary.

I should just like to add that after a long experience of medical and surgical practice, I have come to the conclusion that there is no absolute **cure** for anything except it be, perhaps, the **Scotch Fiddle.**

Correspondence.

STATE APIARIES.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The remarks of your talented correspondent, Mr. M. Atkinson, on the functions of State apiaries, published in your last issue under the above heading, correspond exactly with my contention as fully put forward in two articles in the "N.Z. Farmer"—one in April, 1916, and the other in April, 1917. Mr. Atkinson suggests with regard to experiments at a State apiary little or no good can come out of "fumbling about on elementary matters every beekeeper should become familiar with from text-books and their confirmation by a little practical work. No State organisation ought to be requisitioned for that purpose."

In the April issue for 1916, I suggested under the heading "Experimenting at the Government Apiary," that: "It would be of no practical service to the industry, and would only be a waste of time to trouble about matters that come readily within the scope of enquiry of the average beekeeper; the researches conducted by an officer or officers of the Department of Agriculture should be directed to the solving of such questions as lie beyond the capacity of the former. In minor matters affecting improvement in apiary work, the Bee Journals afford the best sources of information," &c. It is no reflection upon Mr. Trythall to declare that the experiments now being carried out at Ruakura have been fully explained in Bee Journals and text-books, while the results of several have caused the material and methods to be discarded. The National Association insisted upon experiments being carried out at the apiary without defining or suggesting the course they should take to be of the most benefit to our industry. Mr. Trythall is doing all that he can do under the circumstances; but if the State Apiary is to be of real service to our industry it must lead in its researches, not follow, and to do this a properly equipped Bureau of Entomology is needed, with a competent apiarist versed in the science of entomology in charge of the section, such as is the case in Canada and the United States. Until then the whole attention of those in charge should be directed to the improvement of our bees, and the best means of wax production, or, at least, that is my opinion. At the same time, if the State apiaries were converted into bee nurseries to help supply the large demand for bees that now exists, they would do an immense amount of good in furthering the interests of commercial beekeeping in New Zealand.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am enclosing herewith an article entitled "Speeding Up the Busy Bee," which appeared in a recent issue of "The Independent" (New York), as it has occurred to me that it might prove of interest to your readers.—I am, &c.,

M. CABLE.

Wellington, 24/5/18.

SPEEDING UP THE BUSY BEE.

(From "The Independent," New York.)

The little busy bee will have to be busier than ever if it is to meet the present demands for honey. Never before in the history of the country has honey been so scarce or the price so high. Practically all of the honey in the United States, if not all of that which is available in the whole world, will have been cleaned up long before next season's crop can be harvested; this, too, in spite of the fact that the beekeepers of the country were urged last season by the Government to greatly increase their output, and especially to run their bees for extracted honey instead of comb honey, as the former is easier to produce. As a result of the Government's propaganda, which was carried on by experts sent through all the beekeeping States, a much larger volume of honey than usual was put on the market. The surplus, however, was quickly taken up by the demands for honey to be shipped across the seas. It is said that one ship carried a cargo of honey alone, this honey being designed for the use of the Italian army. Never before in the history of the country had a ship-load of American honey been exported.

Beekeeping, which has been purely incidental on most farms, if indeed any bees at all have been kept, is coming to have a greater prominence than ever before. It is not the purpose of the Government, though, to urge the keeping of more bees so much as the production of more honey, which can be done by devoting more care to the bees now owned.

Beekeeping is a line of work which can be taken up to advantage by women. If the present war continues, it is not unlikely that this field will be entered to a much greater extent by women than it ever has been before.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I think a couple of typographical errors have crept into Mr. E. G. Ward's article on "Hints on Hive-making," appearing last month. In one place it states that the depth of a shallow super, outside measurement, should be 5½ inches. Should not this read 5¼ inches, which is the

depth of the shallow dovetail hive? Frames to fit are 4¾ inches in depth. In another place it gives the distance between rabbets of the finished hive as 19 13-16, but as the total length of hive is little if any more than 20 inches, would not this leave but 3-16in. for the combined thickness of both ends?

Not having seen Mr. C. S. Hutchinson's appliance for rendering infected combs, I would very much like to see a complete description of it in your pages. Personally, I think this would be of very general interest.—I am, &c.,

H. W. EARP.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers inform me whether concrete honey ripening tanks are a success? If so, I should be grateful for any information on the subject, especially regarding ingredients used, and whether there is any danger of the honey absorbing moisture from the concrete. Sand and fine gravel are obtainable free for the carting in this district, so that I consider concrete would be cheaper than wood and tin, besides having the advantage of being practically everlasting.—I am, &c.,

A. W. WESTNEY.

Mangere, Auckland, June 11.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

BEE SUPPLIES.

Sir,—Recently I received some new wood and wire excluders which I had ordered, and was surprised to find that the wire portion had so dwindled in size that there are now only 18 spaces between the wires (9 x 2's) instead of having 42 as formerly. The article is about 75 per cent. solid wood, and seems to me must inevitably prove unsatisfactory. Would it not be much better for the makers to continue supplying a thoroughly proved article, even at an increased cost, rather than an inferior one, which seems to have been manufactured to sell at a standard price? The excluders cost 3/- each, but I understand there has since been an advance of 25 per cent., making the present price 3/9.

I was also surprised that the present price of brood foundation is now as high as 3/11 per lb. This was the price I had to pay. The price now given by the makers for best wax is 1/9 per lb. (mine was sold to them some time ago at 1/8), and I think the difference is too great. According to this the producer gets 1/9, and the manufacturer for making, handling and profit 2/2, and when it is considered that the beekeeper can have his own wax made up at 8d. per lb., plus carriage both ways (say, 6d. per lb.), it certainly makes the above price appear excessive.—I am, &c.,

INQUIRER.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have just received the February number of the Journal, and find it very interesting to read of the doings of N.Z. beekeepers I know. Prices seem to be right now, and should compensate anyone having a crop below normal. Reg. Penny wrote saying that his district had not been quite up to expectations, but the season had not definitely closed. I have priced honey in the shops over here—2/6 to 2/11 per lb. for Californian, but have not seen any of the H.P.A. brand. We have honey on the table here, and there must be a good lot of it, as there are 2,000 odd men in the camp. I found out it came from Dunedin, but the Q.M. said that the tins were not branded. It may have been gift stuff.

We had a very good trip across. A number of us have been down with measles, which left some with heart and lung weaknesses. I expect to be in training again in about a month, and have no doubt we will all be needed, as things are not going too well in France.

Trusting you are doing well at your end, and getting crops as big as the prices. Kind regards.—I am, &c.,

ALLAN R. BATES,
59253/N.Z.E.F.

Hornchurch, Essex, April 17.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am enclosing a clipping from the "London Times," March 29th, which I had sent to me while in the firing line. Knowing how the industry has developed in New Zealand the last few years, this should afford a great stimulus, for the market here is almost bare, and all the honey that is exported from New Zealand will find a ready market, and command prices which will ensure for that industry great advancement.

The war has had a great effect on the consumption of honey for many reasons. One is the great dearth of sugar, which commodity is now replaced to a certain degree by honey for making all kinds of confectionery, lollies, &c. Again, the bachelor-like life led by all soldiers makes the tinned luxury very welcome.

I read the enclosed extract in the firing line, where much honey is consumed, but of late it has been very scarce. The last

time I bought some here cost 2 fr. 40 c. for a 1 lb. tin, which is equal to about 2/- per lb.

When I stopped at Capetown on my way over to England I paid 2/3 for a 1 lb. jar.—I am, &c.,

P. B. HOLMES.

France, 7th April, 1918.

DEARER BEES AND HONEY.—HINTS ON FEEDING.

A correspondent writes:—The increase in prices has affected beekeepers, and colonies of bees, swarms, and honey cost far more than before the war, when a strong colony of bees could commonly be bought for 30/- or £2, and a swarm for about 3/- a pound. A strong colony now easily fetches £5, and later will probably be worth £6 or £7; while swarms, so far as can be judged, will fetch from 7/- to 8/- a pound this season. Honey costs two or three times as much as before the war. Very little English honey can now be obtained, but a ready market is found for extracted honey at 2/6 per pound jar, and for comb honey at 3/- per pound section.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted at the rate of 2/- per 36 words per insertion.

Who should be a Beekeeper?

It is an occupation for old or young, rich or poor. It is for the professional man or woman, tired and worn with office work, and it is for the vigorous man in his prime who seeks profit and pleasure alike from its pursuit. Any person, with fair health and strength, studious, and imbued with some patience and some love of nature, may very reasonably hope to become successful as a beekeeper. The more one studies and the more one observes and is able to apply his observations practically, the more successful beekeeper he will be. He should be, too, a reader of bee lore and natural history. The greater and the wider the beekeeper's intelligence, the greater his success will be. The very few persons who may despair of becoming good beekeepers are such as have unusually nervous temperaments, little patience, and little or no love for the outdoors and natural history; and the still fewer who are seriously affected by the poison of bee-stings and stand in constant dread of them. The normal person, with a little care, can avoid stings almost entirely, and need have no cause to dread them.

There is another important essential to winning success in beekeeping. It is the trait of applying knowledge promptly, and doing the right thing at the right time.

The beginner, while he has considerable to do to succeed, yet if he be willing to try earnestly, he may certainly expect to acquire mastery of a profession that will yield not only honey and money, but a world of new interest, full of pleasure and wonder, and which will prove a great aid to health.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

"Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee, are all with thee."
—Longfellow.

B. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs.
S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.
P. E. HOLMES, Pirongia.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.
R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.
E. N. HONORE, Otakebo.
E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.
G. ROGERS, Opotiki.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.
N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton.
W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia.
G. SQUIRES, Fairview.
MURDO McKENZIE, Dunrobin.
W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
JAMES IRVING, Albury.
R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
A. BEVAN, Waihau Downs.
D. CRAWFORD, Waikoikoi. Killed in action.
R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.
S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
F. W. LUNT, Addington.
J. MORGAN, Dannevirke.
H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
ALEX. MAITLAND, Orari. Killed in action.
A. R. BATES, Kaponga.
C. E. QUAIFE, Russell's Flat.
G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
H. W. McCALL, Wallacetown. Killed in action.
G. I. SHAW, Dometts.
D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.
M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville.
H. R. PENNY, Okaiawa.
C. L. GRANT, Rockville.



National Beekeeper's Association—Annual Conference.
JUNE, 1918

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